

09/856,543

REMARKS

The present Response is submitted in reply to the Official Action of September 7, 2004 and the Applicant respectfully requests a three month extension of term, attached hereto, in which to respond to the outstanding official action.

As the official fee for five (5) independent claims was already paid for in this application, no further claim fees are believed to be due and payable in view of this Response.

Claims 56, 58-60 and 64 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated in view of Keen '327. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for declaring claims 84-88 to be allowed, while claims 57, 60, 66 and 71 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Upon consideration of the pending claims and in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, the Applicant elected to amend claims 57, 60, 66 and 71 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and to cancel claims 29-37, 44-56, 58, 59, 61-65, 67-70, 72-83 from further consideration. In view of such amendment, claims 57, 60, 66 and 71 are now believed to be allowable together with allowed claims 84-88. The Applicant accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections of and/or objections to claims 57, 60, 66 and 71 and allow those claims along with claims 84-88.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

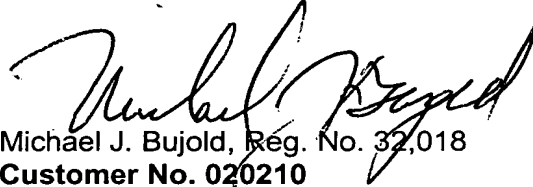
09/856,543

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com